

AGENDA

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

December 5, 2018

Alderman Cataldo, School Committee

Member Freeman, Ald. Shaw,

Committee Member Ambrogi,

Committee Member Want

5:00 p.m.

Aldermanic Chambers

City Hall (3rd Floor)

1. Chairman Cataldo calls the meeting to order.
2. The Clerk calls the roll.
3. Discussion regarding the purpose and original intent of the committee.
4. If there is no further business, a motion is in order to adjourn.



CITY OF MANCHESTER

Board of Aldermen

Sp. 607 9/18/12 Manchester
Referred to 10/2 meeting



September 18, 2012

Re: BMA Special Committee on Education

To the Honorable Board of Mayor and Aldermen:

We are all well aware of the current status of the Manchester School District. Many in our community have reached out to members of the Board of Aldermen for help. Although the role of the BMA per state law and city charter is primarily to act as the legislative body for a school budget appropriation and to have responsibility over the school facilities, the public expects more from us.

I am recommending that the BMA form a Special Committee on Education to help address school issues of today and to assist in the education of our students moving forward. The intent of the committee is to address items that are directly part of city government's responsibility and not to circumvent the responsibilities of the Board of School Committee or the school district administration. It is also not the intent to circumvent the responsibilities of the standing committees and other special committees of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Agenda items could include, but are not limited to:

1) Public Safety and Health

- Through the Manchester Police Department, make sure we are providing safety for our teachers, school administrators, other professional staff, and most importantly our students, from physical and/or verbal assaults and other criminal behavior that occurs in our schools. No one should ever be afraid to be in school. School violence is unacceptable and those who commit these acts must be dealt with through the legal system.

- Through the Manchester Fire Department, make sure that our schools are up to date with any and all life safety codes, fire detection systems, fire suppression systems and security systems.
- Through the Manchester Health Department., ensure the health of our students. This is important and we need to make sure that we work to provide any and all services that may be needed. Schools in many ways are our community centers of today.

2) School Facilities

- Through the Manchester Fire Department. and the Manchester Planning & Community Development Department, make sure all life safety and ADA codes are being met at all our schools.
- Through the Manchester Public Works Department/Facilities Division, make sure that we are addressing all short term and long term maintenance needs of our school facilities.
- Through the Manchester Public Works Department/Parks Division, make sure that we are addressing all the needs of school athletic facilities and city athletic facilities to better serve our student athletes.
- Through the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, Board of School Committee, City staff, and School District staff, work together regarding future planning of new facilities, school classroom additions/renovations, etc.

3) Student Transportation

- Through the Manchester Transit Authority, make sure that the Manchester School District and City of Manchester are providing the most needed and cost effective transportation for our students.

4) Economic Development

- Through the Manchester Economic Development Office, understand the impact our school district has with job creation and job retention in our community.
- Through the Manchester Economic Development Office, work with the Manchester School District to make sure we are educating and training our students for the future jobs needs in our city.
- Through the Manchester Economic Development Office, review partnership opportunities with businesses and non-profits in our community that could provide extended learning opportunities for our students.

5) Assessor's Office

Through the Manchester Assessor's Office, understand the impact our public schools have on home values.

6) Finance and Budget

- Through the Manchester Finance Department, work with the Manchester School District to develop a better process for developing the annual school district budget.
- Through the Manchester Finance Department work with the Manchester School District to develop a system of monthly reporting to the city during the fiscal year in an effort for the city to have a better understanding of the district's budget needs.
- Through the Manchester Finance Department, work with the Manchester School District to review the current "chargeback system" and look at whether or not there is a need for chargebacks with any and all services in the future.

It is time for the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to take an active role in supporting the Manchester School District, Board of School Committee and most importantly, the students of our public school system, this school year and in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "DAN", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel P. O'Neil
Alderman At-Large